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To H. E. Señor Don Rufino de Elizalde.
Julio 14 -

Consulate General of the Argentine Republic.

Private.

1. George Street,
Manoife House.
C.C.

8th June 1865.

My dear Excellency,

The last mail from Buenos Ayres brought us news of the commencement of war and of the intended despatch of Señor de la Riestra to England on a financial mission. He will be warmly welcomed and the progress of events will be watched here with lively wishes for the success of the Argentine Republic.

A young gentleman
J. W. Selby Cookson, sails
with a friend by the

Steamer which leaves
Liverpool on the 11th instant
for Buenos Ayres. He is
a nephew of Mr. Martin
Smith who is a member
of Parliament and head of
one of the oldest & most
influential London Banking
firms (Messrs. Smith, Payne,
& Smiths). Until a
month or two back Mr.
Cookson was a Lieutenant
in the British Army, but
he has sold his Commission
in order to emigrate, and
his Companion who was
in the same Regiment has
done the same. They
each take out a little
Capital and I have no
doubt will do well as

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they are quite prepared for rough life. At the request of Mr. Martin Smith I have given Mr. Cookson several letters of introduction amongst which is one to yourself, in order that he may have the advantage of paying his respects to you, — an advantage which, I doubt not, you will kindly accord to him, owing to the agreeableness of his manners and the goodness of his family connexions.

I ~~do~~ send at foot some paragraphs in which I have spoken of the

Recent news from Buenos Ayres; —

The telegram from the River Plate to-day, confirming the anticipated rupture between Paraguay and Buenos Ayres, need not, it is considered, excite any apprehensions of a serious or prolonged war. The average annual imports of Paraguay are about 150,000*l.*, and its revenue about the same, the country having for the last 20 years, under the uncontrolled despotism of President Lopez, been entirely closed to foreign commerce and civilization. Lopez has now thrown himself against the combined power of Brazil, Montevideo, and Buenos Ayres; and, although his half-savage troops may work mischief on the outlying provinces of those countries, they are, it may be assumed, wholly incompetent to perform any important operations of regular warfare.

Times. 2 June

It is stated that Señor de la Riestra, the President of the Senate at Buenos Ayres, and formerly Finance Minister, will arrive by the next English River Plate steamer, and that the amount of the loan proposed to be negotiated is supposed to be about 1,500,000*l.* The Government have properly entertained great disinclination to raise a foreign loan, and, content with the steady progress of the national finances, have hitherto been enabled to resist all suggestions to that effect, either for currency or other purposes. At the same time, they have relied that the scrupulous neutrality they have observed in the conflict between Brazil and Paraguay would have obviated all necessity for making preparations for any undue expenditure. The sudden and treacherous attack made upon them by Paraguay has, however, left them no choice but to join with Brazil and Uruguay in prompt measures. The final result, it is believed, will be very favourable for all interests in the River Plate, since it is expected by the overthrow of Lopez to open Paraguay to the influences of civilization, and thus bring the whole region into harmony.

Times. 6 June.

I am, My dear Excellency
Your sincere & faithful Servt
M. B. Sampson.

Postscript. By this mail I
send Copy of further
Correspondence regarding
River Plate affairs recently
printed by order of parliament.